

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03697 141109Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DHA-02 /042 W

-----141136Z 061281 /17-S

R 141014Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3697

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ET
SUBJ: ADDITIONAL PRISONER RELEASES

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 3444 (NOTAL), B. ADDIS ABABA 3507
(NOTAL), C. ADDIS ABABA 3505 (NOTAL), D. KHARTOUM 1932
(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: JUNE 11 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED RELEASE OF 708
PERSONS AMNESTIED BY PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVT (EPMG), WHO
PRESUMABLY HAD BEEN DETAINED IN ADDIS ABABA. PROVI-
SIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) MEMBER IN
CHARGE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, PETTY OFFICER
TAMRAT FEREDÉ (PMAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER) IN ADDRESS TO
RELEASEES, HINTED AT ETHIOPIAN SENSITIVITY TO EXTERNAL
CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND NOTED SOME "FRIENDS
OF REVOLUTUION" DETAINED IN COURSE OF MEASURES TO WIPE
OUT OPPONENTS. JUNE 12 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED RELEASE OF
120 YOUTHS IN HARAR WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED ON SUSPICION FOR
BEING COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES. END SUMMARY.

1. JUNE 11 PRESS REPORT STATED 708 PERSONS GRANTED
AMNESTY HAD BEEN DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH "MEASURES
TAKEN TO WIPE OUT ANTI-POPULAR AND ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03697 141109Z

GROUPS OF EDU, EPRP, AND ELF" (NO MENTION OF CIA). IN
SPEECH TO RELEASEES, PMAC INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELA-
TIONS CHAIRMAN, PETTY OFFICER TAMRAT FEREDÉ STATED,
"CONTRARY TO WHAT IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARY RULING
CLASSES CLAIM, ALL THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY PMAC
TO PROTECT REVOLUTION ARE TO BE VIEWED FROM POINT OF
REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE, AND NOT AS ANTI-POPULAR MEA-

SURES VIOLATING RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF OPPRESSED BROAD MASSES." IN EXPLAINING "MEASURES", TAMRAT SAID FIRST PHASE DIRECTED AGAINST ENEMY, WHILE SECOND PHASE AGAINST "FENCE SITTERS." HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, MEASURES COULD AFFECT FRIENDS OF REVOLUTION. HE ADDED "ARMY FIGHTING AN ENEMY COULD NOT ATTAIN VICTORY WITHOUT SINGLE CASUALTY ON ITS PART."

2. TAMRAT CATEGORIZED RELEASEES INTO THREE GROUPS - THOSE EXPOSED BY COMMUNITY FOR HAVING KNOWINGLY COMMITTED ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTS, THOSE WHO HAD UNKNOWNLY JOINED ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY CAMP, AND FEW OTHER FRIENDS OF REVOLUTION DETAINED IN COURSE OF MEASURES TO WIPE OUT OR ARREST ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES. TAMRAT EXPRESSED HOPE "IN PARTICULAR, YOUTHS WHO HAD BEEN MISLED BY ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES TO REVOLT AGAINST FELLOW ETHIOPIANS AND MOTHERLAND HAD LEARNED FROM MISTAKES." HE CONCLUDED, THERE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE, MEASURES AND AMNESTY.

3. JUNE 12 PRESS REPORTED RELEASE OF 120 YOUTHS IN HARAR, APPARENTLY SIMILAR TO LATE MAY RELEASES (REFTEL A). REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH SAID THEY HAD LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCES AND HAD PLEDGED TO JOIN REVOLUTIONARY CAMP. PMAC MEMBER ASSIGNED TO REGION STATED ETHIOPIAN YOUTH HAD WAGED BITTER STRUGGLE PAST 13 YEARS TO UPROOT OPPRESSIVE FEUDAL YOUTH, BUT WARNED ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH WOULD BE CRUSHED BY BROAD MASSES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 03697 141109Z

4. COMMENT: WHILE TERM "HUMAN RIGHTS" NEVER USED, TAMRAT'S ELLIPTICAL REFERENCES TO RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF MASSES, PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE TO SPEECH BY PMAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND REFERENCE TO CLAIMS OF IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARIES SUGGEST EPMG DESIRE TO COUNTER ADVERSE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ETHIOPIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND GIVE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PMAC SENSITIVITY (REFS B AND C) TO EXTERNAL "MISUNDERSTANDING" OF REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION. (EPMG HAD NOT HITHERTO FOUND IT NECESSARY TO COMMENT ALONG SUCH LINES WHEN RELEASING PRISONERS.) ALTHOUGH SOME "POLITICAL PRISONERS" MAY HAVE BEEN RELEASED AMONG 708 IN ADDIS, IT APPEARS FROM TAMRAT CATEGORIZATION AND NEWS PHOTOS THAT MAJORITY OF RELEASEES WERE YOUTHS PROBABLY ARRESTED DURING MARCH SEARCH CAMPAIGN BY POORLY-INSTRUCTED AND TRAINED "KEBELE" SECURITY SQUADS. PRESENT RELEASE MAY BE FURTHER PMAC EFFORT TO CORRECT EXCESSES FROM THAT PERIOD. TOTAL ANNOUNCED NUMBER OF PRISONERS RELEASED OVER PAST 2-1/2 WEEKS, 2,488. FOLLOWING DAY'S

EDITORIAL STRONGLY REINFORCED TAMRAT CONTENTION THAT
IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY PROPAGANDA CONCENTRATING ON
DELIBERATE MISINTERPRETATION OF REVOLUTIONARY GOVT'S
GENUINE ACTIONS AND ATTEMPTING TO SMEAR MEASURES
AIMED AT PROTECTING REVOLUTION BY CLAIMING FREEDOM
AND RIGHTS OF OPPRESSED MASSES BEING VIOLATED.
EDITORIAL STATED TRUTH OF MATTER IS INTERESTS OF
OPPRESSED MASSES BEING DEFENDED AND REVOLUTION BEING
PROVIDED ADEQUATE GUARANTEE FOR ITS SUCCESS.
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS03697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770211-1037
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770661/aaaacbhf.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88b0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 3444, 77 ADDIS ABABA 3507
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2168790
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL PRISONER RELEASES
TAGS: SHUM, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88b0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009